

The Calloused Digit

by
Frederick Meekins
Issue #2

Halloween Sermon Exposes Minister's Desire For Religious Dictatorship

In part one of a sermon series titled “Halloween: A Biblical Critique Of James Jordin & American Vision”, Brian Schwertly of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America did not argue against the autumnal celebration on the traditional grounds that the celebration was pagan per say.

Rather he argued against it from the standpoint of the Reformed belief against the impropriety of man authorizing holy days not found in Scripture.

In this homily, he seemed to praise and certainly did not criticize Scottish authorities at the time of the Reformation that forbade under penalty of law those celebrating such commemorations after Presbyterianism became that nation's established church.

However, if man does not have the authority to compel extra-biblical holy days, on what grounds does one then forbid an individual from incorporating these practices as part of their individual devotion after they have been informed that observation of the day is not necessarily a requirement?

For does not Romans 14:5-6 seem to indicate that these sorts of matters are more in the realm of individual conscience?

In a sermon against Halloween, Presbyterian Brian Schwertly described a prank he use to engage in during that particular time of year where he would light a bag of, in his words, “poop” on fire and leave it on someone's porch.

Instead of remorsefully recounting this story in a tone of repentance, he actually laughed about it.

If Halloween really is as evil as the hardline Fundamentalists make it out to be, wouldn't that be the equivalent of fondly recalling before the congregation how Buffy down at the gentleman's club would twirl as she was giving him a lap dance?

Wouldn't an ultralegalist such as himself consider a person exhibiting such glee in the House of God insufficiently contrite?

Yes, he should be classified as an ultralegalist as he insinuated at another point in the sermon series that Roman Catholics and Arminians should be denied citizenship in the idealized Christian Reconstructionist regime.

In the sermon “Halloween: A Biblical Critique Of James Jordin & American Vision, Part 2”, Brian Schwertly examined the argument that Christian participation in Halloween is valid and legitimate as a way of ridiculing the power of Satan.

Schwertly contends that such a perspective is inappropriate in light of Jude 1:9 in which it is suggested that even the mightiest of angels are cautious about underestimating the Old

Deluder.

However, it has been suggested that often conceptualizing of evil in a literary or narrative form similar to a fairy tale can assist the young in placing these kinds of fears and terrors in a proper perspective.

Why can't the symbology of Halloween play a similar kind of role?

But more importantly, perhaps the argument about justifying Halloween as a way of minimizing Satan's



influence through good old fashioned ridicule came about as a result of the need in some of the more rigorous wings of Evangelicalism to always find itself in an “on position” in terms of some grand outreach effort or engaged in some never-ending confrontation. Can't a kid just go out for a night dressed in

costume to collect some candy without it being as if the Apocalypse was looming or the fate of the world hanging in the balance?

By Frederick Meekins

Even Solid Pulpits Fail To Fully Address Social Crisis

A pastor enunciated from behind the pulpit that Communism was not inherently in opposition with Christianity.

Rather, only that ideology's anti-religious accretions were evil, not necessarily the systemic imposed material equality.

But doesn't that violate the dictum of “Thou shalt not steal”?

And what about the Biblical truism of a workman being worthy of his hirer?

Furthermore, if everyone was to be given the exact same allotment, why should anyone break their backside or put forth anything beyond minimal effort?

A pastor announced from the pulpit that, if he was around during the American Revolutionary War, he could not in good conscience necessarily support the Independence movement. The ministered based his position on Romans 13:1-7.

In this passage, it is taught there is no authority but that which has been established by God.

But the question must be asked who determines what constitutes the established authority?

In some parts of Syria and Iraq now, would that be the ISIS jihadists?

There are reports that, despite their faults, these pieces of human excrement are attempting to provide certain levels of government service.

Elsewhere in the sermon, the pastor let it slip that he accepts the rights provided by government.

If that is his political theology rather than the position that fundamental liberties as articulated by the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution exist above the institutions of government and are bestowed by God upon the individual as a result of being created in the image of deity, on what grounds does this pastor bemoan the atrocities perpetrated by ISIS if they constitute the power God is allowing to prevail in these particular geographic areas?

A pastor condemning Christian support of the American Revolutionary War insisted that the Founding Fathers were not so much intending to

implement Scripture but rather John Locke which was instead “philosophy”.

But is not hostility towards philosophy itself a philosophy?

Without context, philosophy is itself like a gun in that it is morally neutral.

It becomes good or bad dependent upon the character and the intentions of those wielding it.

It is near impossible for any nation other than the theocracy of Ancient Israel to implement Scripture directly. As such, the only way to do so is through a PHILOPSHY deduced from the principles contained within the pages of Holy Writ. Granted, the Founding Fathers were far from perfect in terms of their individual belief systems and professions of faith.

However, as John Warwick Montgomery points out in *The Shaping Of America*, even if the Founders did not set out to provide the nation with a system of government explicitly Christian in origin, what they did provide draws profound inspiration from that specific faith tradition.

By Frederick Meekins

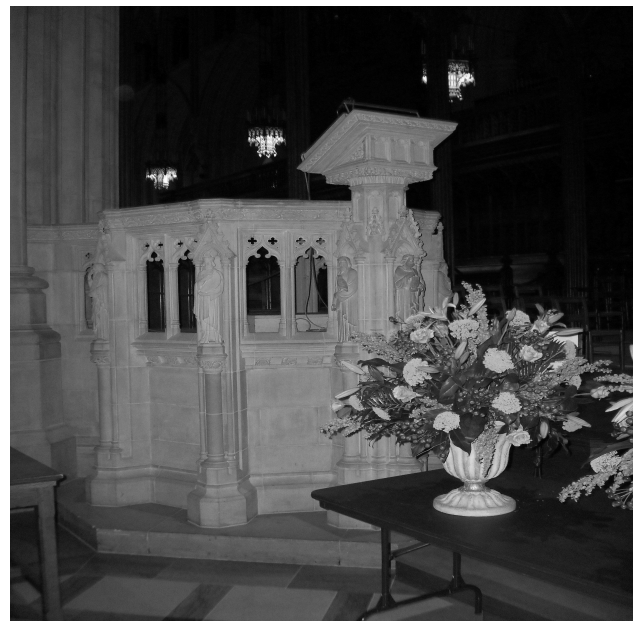


Photo by Frederick Meekins

Do Illustrations Employed By Calvinists Undermine Their Soteriology?

A Facebook meme depicts predestination as a railway track one rides along.

The advocate of free will and choice is pictured as riding along in a coal car, mistakenly holding a map detailing the numerous paths which the individual can decide to follow.

If that is the illustration one desires to believe in and promote, what one is saying is that God alone is at fault for what ultimately becomes of the individual that has no control over anything whatsoever.

For example, using the train track as the paradigm, should this coal car over which the individual can

exert no influence whatsoever derails with the passenger being profoundly injured, what the proponents of the illustration are saying is that the passenger is at fault rather than the one that laid the track and sent the car careening towards the destination.

Likewise, if the individual cannot do anything whatsoever to alter the destination at the end of the track, there really is no reason after all to tell them beforehand where it is that they are headed.

By Frederick Meekins

Hispanosupremacist Journal Racist Towards Marilyn Monroe

On the cover of the Fall 2014 edition of *Aztlan: A Journal Of Chicano Studies* is a picture of a figurine of Marilyn Monroe in her famous pose struggling to hold down her blowing skirt in "The Seven Year Itch".

The figurine has been painted so that it is now Black. Would UCLA publish an academic journal with the cover disrespecting a legendary minority celebrity in a similar manner?

The question is particularly relevant if the title of the journal was an allusion to a mythical idealized realm the name of which possesses connotations of a desired racial superiority or ethnic supremacism as does the term "Aztlan".

Does National Council Of Churches Care Equally About Communist Police Brutality?

The National Council Of Churches on 8/18/2014 issued a statement regarding the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri.

The statement read in part, "These killings, as well as those of hundreds of Americans...at the hands of increasingly militarized police forces is a great and growing concern.

A peaceful, healthy society requires trust...between citizens and law enforcement."

One must stop and ask if the National Council Of Churches was as morally reflective and critical of Communists and Socialists when the organization was snuggling up to these kinds of regimes, movements, and revolutions during the Cold War years.

Brian McLaren Badmouths Fox News

In a comment in a Youtube video, Brian McLaren remarked that no network is as ideological as Fox News.

As if Al Sharpton, Rachel Madow, and Laurence O'Donnell are delivering a Joe Friday recitation of "just the facts".

Laurence O'Donnell openly admits to harboring socialist tendencies.

Chris Matthews at one time would get a tingle running up and down his leg every time he would hear Barack Obama speak.

Anchor Melissa Harris Perry at one time appeared on air wearing tampon earrings.

If this is what Brian McLaren considers bias free news, he is more a religious shill for partisan causes than Pat Robertson in the hay day of the Christian Coalition or Jerry Falwell at the zenith of the Moral Majority.

Fox News cannot be held responsible if very few rational people want to watch MSNBC.

A Moral Analysis Of Physician Assisted Suicide

It is often difficult to judge someone until you have walked a mile in their shoes. As such, one of the most challenging situations imaginable would be for someone in optimal health to counsel the terminally ill as to the proper response to legal physician-assisted suicide.

In this contentious debate, ghouls in lab coats give those wracked with the most horrible of afflictions the impression that the only alternatives available are a life of agony or an end hastened by an IV drip. However, those in the middle of this debate who relish neither the prospects of drawn out pain nor speeding up death as an end in itself can provide a bit of solace in light of life's most intense existential crisis for their loved ones and colleagues.

Many times if these cases are looked at more closely, one does not find someone that is all that eager to embrace death as they are to ease overwhelming physical and emotional suffering. The goal in such situations ought not be to prolong life beyond what was intended but rather to allow the person's existential voyage to reach its conclusion at a natural pace in a more serene manner.

Therefore, the best course of treatment to counsel the terminally ill consists of the various options to control the pain. Rae points out that, though there are cases where pain cannot be controlled, these instances are rare and should not be precedent-setting examples upon which a comprehensive policy is based (188). It is Rae's assertion that most cases can be controlled through a high-enough amount of medication.

Under the principle known as "the law of double effect", medical personnel could be permitted to administer a sufficient quantity of drugs to alleviate the pain even if one of the possible side effects of the treatment is death (188). To some, this may sound little different than euthanasia; however, the distinction of motive is critical as the patient and medical professionals are not deliberately seeking to end life but rather to alleviate suffering aware of the knowledge that death might be a potential outcome. When you come down to it, this would not be all that more ethically ambiguous than any other risky but necessary medical procedure.

In his lectures for the Trinity Theological Seminary courses in Apologetics, John Warwick Montgomery astutely observed that each of us is more preoccupied about our own deaths and those of loved ones than we are willing to admit. Even for Christians, that

appointment none will be able to avoid other than through Christ's Second Coming might not spark as much apprehension if we had better assurances from the medical community that everything within its power was being done to make the transition into the next realm as comfortable as possible.

In regards to the issue of physician-assisted suicide, its proponents often attempt to turn the tables on their Christian opponents with the following argument: "Since Christians should show mercy and compassion, they should therefore approve of physician assisted suicide." While this may be difficult to counter initially in light of the immense pain the terminally ill often suffer from, upon closer reflection one will realize that mercy and compassion are not as intrinsically linked with this disputed medical practice as we have been led to believe.

If the advocates of euthanasia point out that while such efforts might diminish psychological anguish they do little to ease overwhelming pain, the Christian can respond that the goal ought not to be so much hastening death but rather directing research efforts towards addressing this physical trauma. As Rae points out, the cases where pain cannot be managed are increasingly rare; and in especially challenging cases under the principle known as "the law of double effect", physicians are justified in increasing the patient's level of medication to levels nullifying the pain even if one of the potential side effects is death. In such a scenario, death is not the intended result but rather an unintended consequence.

In these debates, it is often considered impolite to call someone's motives into question. However, since the advocates of physician-assisted suicide have already insinuated that Christians leery of this practice rank up there with the Marquis De Sade for allowing suffering to continue, it would be a fair question to ask whether euthanasia's enthusiasts are really all that concerned about the comforts of the critically ailing or simply hide behind such a seemingly humanitarian posture out of more materialistic motivations.

For despite hiding behind a cloak of compassion, many calling for physician-assisted suicide are just concerned about the bottom line, claiming that limited resources would be better directed towards salvageable human capital. As former Colorado Governor Richard Lamm said, "We have a duty to die", no doubt emphasizing this obligation for the common man rather than his own loved ones.

Southern Baptist Missions President Applauds Family Neglect In God's Name

In a sermon titled “The Gospel Demands Sacrifice” posted at YouTube, President of the Southern Baptist International Missions Board Daniel Platt emphasized the Gospel requirement that our love for Christ should surpass even what we have for family.

As an example, Pastor Platt praised John Bunyan who was tossed into prison for refusing to stop preaching when ordered to by Anglican authorities despite the hardship endured by his family in general and his blind child in particular.

The Christian should not deny Christ.

However, Bunyan was initially imprisoned for preaching without a license.

Whether we agree with that or not is a secondary matter.

Often in a fallen world, the situations are so bad that the individual is forced to prioritize from a list of less than ideal options.

From the Wikipedia entry on John Bunyan, one gets the impression authorities were not initially inclined to imprison Bunyan until he blurted out that he'd be out preaching again the next day.

That causes one to ponder was it necessarily Christ that Bunyan was infatuated with or the adrenaline rush one can get from a good fight.

I Timothy 5:8 admonishes that those that do not take care of their own family are worse than an infidel.

The same ones praising John Bunyan for in their minds putting Christ in a proper place above the needs of his family would turn around and heap condemnation upon others for not taking care of the Bunyan urchins.

However, shouldn't taking care of the spiritual and physical needs of these children have been the foremost life's mission of the Bunyan parents?

Why couldn't have Bunyan been as an upstanding Christian example ministering to the needs of his ailing child and instead return to spreading the Gospel to others behind the back of authorities at a later time?

Jesus did indeed counsel that the believer's love of family should look like hate in comparison to that for Him.

However, the most profound expression of devotion to Christ may be in loving our family members in those times we feel like loving them the least or get distracted by a cause we deem much more exciting than the mundane duties of this world.

By Frederick Meekins



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Observations Regarding Obama's ISIS Policy

After saying that he intended to destroy ISIS, President Obama clarified that what he really meant was to manage the ISIS problem. So in saying that he intends to manage the health care system and the U.S. economy, what President Obama really means is that he intends to destroy the health care system and the U.S. economy.

To President Obama, saying ISIS is a manageable problem means that he will be whisked away to an underground bunker while you will be left to deal with your own fester sores oozing with puss should there be a nuclear, chemical, or biological attack.

President Obama insists that his plan to eliminate ISIS could take years. No doubt, this could very well result in his attempt to promulgate an executive order circumventing the Constitution (like so many of his other) insisting that he is not bound by presidential term limits.

President Obadiah insists that ISIS is not Islamic because no true religion advocates violence against innocents. So do leftwing academics of which Obama is a foremost example now intend to stop blaming the Crusades on Christians? Because, by the definition employed by the President, the Crusaders were not necessarily true Christians.

Obama insists that the Islamic State State In Iraq & Syria is not really Islamic. To justify this claim, the President insists that no true religion condones the killing of innocents and that the majority of the terrorist group's victims have been Muslims. Indoctrinating their spawn as soon as they squirt from the birth canal to embrace violence, these savages do not nuance the concept of innocence as we do in the civilized world. They blow apart their coreligionists exactly because they view these people as guilty for embracing a form of religion that may not be as doctrinally rigorous as that espoused by these fanatics.

In his address to the nation outlining his approach to the ISIS threat (which the President insists is not Islamic despite that moniker distinctively highlighted in the organization's name), Obama decreed, "I have the authority to address the threat. But I believe we are strongest as a nation when the president and Congress work together. So I do welcome congressional support for this effort in order to show the world that Americans are united in confronting danger." In other words, our glorious leader is extending each of us the privilege to endorse his predetermined policy. Wasn't this the way Palpatine

was ruling between the time when Darth Vader bordered Princess Leia's ship in the opening scenes of Star Wars and when Moff Tarkin makes his first appearance in the scene aboard the Death Star announcing that the Emperor has abolished the Galactic Senate?

Secretary of State John Kerry clarified that President Obama's strategy against ISIS will consist of many different parts. In other words, it is one of those Rube Goldberg contraptions that really won't accomplish much of anything.

As part of his strategy to confront ISIS, Obama vows to lend increased support to the Free Syrian Army. In other words, the terrorists we will be facing in about twenty years during World War 5 or 6. I've started to lose count.

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Analysts Rush To Defense Of NFL Player Accused Of Child Abuse

Charles Barkley insists that the beating of children by athletes should be overlooked because that form of discipline is a “Southern Black thing”.

Will he be suspended from his broadcasting duties like the correspondent that simply asked why Janay Rice would deliberately marry a known domestic abuser?

Will Black media personalities insisting that the beating of their youth by parents is just the way things are done down South insist that Paula Deen's fortune be restored because what she said in the privacy of her own home to her husband that resulted in no bodily injury is just the way things were done down South?

Since it was the way things use to be done, are those applauding the beating of a four year old to the point of bodily injury going to also tell us that it's also appropriate to deny children wholesome affection such as hugs or that to lavish attention and resources on one child to the point of neglecting other less desirable children in a family for no legitimate reason is acceptable.

Those kinds of things use to go on as well.

According to former Chicago Bears coach Mike Ditka, the propriety of a parental action such as a beating is to be determined by the pile of money or status that accrues to the recipient of such tactilely intensive correction.

If Adrian Peterson has approximately seven children by near as many women none of which he is married to, there has obviously been some kind of shortcoming or breakdown in the parental process somewhere.

Adrian Peterson's methods of discipline are being justified or overlooked on the grounds that that was the way things were always done.

Peterson is estimated to have fathered seven children.

He refuses to disclose the answer to this question himself definitively.

Nor does it sound like he is married to any of the mothers.

In those heralded golden days of yore invoked to justify the bruising of a four year old, didn't you usually get married before procreating that prodigiously?

Perhaps we should hold off a bit before lavishing this reprobate with father of the year accolades as some in certain conservative circles seem eager to bestow upon him.

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Does Duck Dynasty Patriarch Impose His Peculiarities On His Own Kin?

Phil Robertson of Duck Dynasty has enunciated more than his dislike of homosexuals.

He has also made known his disapproval of fat kids, city dwellers, men that like cats, and females not married by the age of 15.

In one episode, his wife insinuated that it is inappropriate for unmarried couples to hold hands.

Wonder if they will make similarly doctrinaire statements regarding their granddaughter shaking her backside in a skimpy outfit on national TV.

Or, as “Christian leaders”, do they get the customary exemption from the standards we non-celebrities are expected to adhere to.

Should Wiccans Be Denied First Amendment Rights?

In a sermon on the Salem Witch Trials, Pastor Matthew Trehwella of the Mercy Seat Christian Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin analyzed a number of facts and perceptions surrounding this event from early American history.

The minister did a superb job in pointing out that not as many lost their lives in this tragedy as is commonly believed and the role played by Christians such as Cotton Mather in actually bringing this outrage to an end.

Somewhat disturbing was his contention that the civil magistrate should not allow those of that deviant creed to meet publicly as they do here in America.

It is correct that in the Old Testament that the theonomic covenant commanded that Israel was to drive practitioners of these beliefs from the land to the point of execution if need be.

However, we do not see that approach being taken in the New Testament.

For example, instead of physical force being used to repel these abominations, what we see transpiring in the more Gentile context in which the Apostles operated was apologetic confrontation where the errant beliefs were exposed and the alternative of the Gospel offered.

Furthermore, if the Christian magistrate suppresses conscience in this area deemed offensive, on what grounds do they protest when they find their beliefs being persecuted and oppressed?

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Are Christian Filmmakers Really Worthy Of Death?

According to an anti-movie preacher, those that think that motion pictures can serve as a method through which to reach the lost with the Gospel are guilty of the sin of Uza who was struck dead for touching the Ark of the Covenant to keep the scared relic from falling to the ground.

Granted, nothing can replace the foolishness of preaching in spreading the salvation message.

However, what is to be done with creative types within the church?

The way these hardline fundamentalist churches are operated, there is no way there individuals are going to be allowed to express themselves unless they are part of the in crowd that run these places.

Most will be shouted down with a Bible pingpong bashing if they even raise a question that has the hint of clashing with the interpretation preferred by the pastoral staff or Sunday school teachers.

If these types ever took over, it would probably be a daily marching out to the equivalent of the Cambodian rice paddies of anyone that dare exhibit literary inclinations.

A Baptist opposed to movies condemned cinema because the medium can evoke emotions such as fear in response to situations that the viewer is not actually experiencing directly at the moment.

But don't Bible stories and passages often do something categorically similar? For example, those such as the Book of Revelation that describe death on a planetary scale in the hopes that the reader will come to a particular decision regarding Christ.

A pastor opposed to the cinema tossed in for good measure condemnation of Vacation Bible Schools that attempt to reach children through entertainment.

But if it's not fun, on what grounds are children obligated to attend Vacation Bible School?

Given its not directly commanded in the pages of Scripture, you can't very well guilt them into attending.

A pastor opposed to cinema also condemned the notion of fun from the standpoint of the terms etymological origins as "vulgar merriment".

I bet his wife finds him a real hoot in the sack.

A pastor opposed to movies claimed that allowing a desire for innocent entertainment in children will lead to a desire for "adult entertainment" when they have matured. So I guess the title of that tract would be "From Bunnies To Bunnies: The Journey From Fuzzy Lagmomorphs To Heffner's Groto".

Apparently the idealized Christian world we are supposed to endeavor to implement before Christ even returns is one where women can't vote without a man's permission and where forms of popular culture such as movies and amusement parks are to be condemned (and thus probably forbidden) not in terms of content but rather as forms of expression altogether. I find such a realm no more appealing in which to dwell than a secularized debauched or totalitarian dystopia.

A Baptist pastor condemned Sunday School studies that used as a discussion starter the Beverly Hillbillies and Mayberry. So if cultural references are off limits, is the Apostle Paul to be condemned in his address on the Aeropagus for mentioning the altar to the unknown god or the quote from a pagan poet about in God how we live, move, and have our being? And if no Christian is to be acquainted with the popular culture, how were those assembled supposed to understand the like kryptonite to Superman simile utilized in the sermon? In the kind of regime advocated by these ultralegalists, shouldn't such a remark be grounds for defrocking the pastor?

The preacher in a series of sermon condemning the cinematic art form in the same set of homilies condemned those that hop from church to church. So should a dictatorship of these kinds of legalists ever rise to power, would the next thing prohibited after movies are eliminated be going to another church without permission? If so, on what grounds so such ministers then justify the existence of Protestantism?

The Baptist pastor condemning movies said the cinema was evil because it sparked a desire and expectation that relationships ought to be romantic. I guess the ideal procreative copulation should be prearranged by church authorities like the breeding of livestock for the creation of the optimal super soldier, oops, I mean missionary.

A pastor opposed to entertainment suggested that parents should toss out anything as soon as it violates the guidelines of Philippians 4:8. Does this include passages of Scripture such as when Tammar was raped by her half-brother or when David got so horny watching Bathsheba bathe that he was willing to have his devoted friend murdered in his pursuit of her?

So if ugly details are allowed in the Bible as a way of arriving at more profound truths, why is such a literary strategy to be forbidden in other forms of narrative?

A Baptist pastor complained about contemporary parents having to provide entertainment, activities, or toys for their children.

In other words, once those of this mindset have had their fun making the child (with the minimal amount of movement possible in order to avoid the possibility of such gyrations potentially leading to dancing), they pretty much just want a child to make themselves look good.

The rest of the time, I guess, the child is obligated to occupy their time rocking back and forth chanting Scripture like a student in some kind of Christianized madrasa.

This pastor continued that he did not think that parents do not need to provide their children with toys or activities because these did not exist for centuries.

That's because most of your kids would have died before they were five years old, the rest were worked to death in the fields or sent off to fight in their lieges' wars, and the few that made it through all that were probably eager to be planted in the ground by the time they were 45 years old.

But those were the good all days we are are suppose to be eager to get back to.

By Frederick Meekins

Are Christians Obligated To Overlook Homeschooling's Shortcomings?

Homeschool activist Kevin Swanson condemned as “traitors to the cause of freedom” *World Magazine* for publishing a story drawing attention to a number of homeschool students believing they were not served well by that pedagogical modality.

Swanson is correct that those with a Christian worldview ought to expose the deficiencies and abuses of the secularist system.

However, if one's loyalty is to God's truth and just not those claiming to be on your side, aren't those that were possibly mistreated in the name of religion also allowed to verbalize their concerns so as to better protect the movement from falling into Satan's snares?

If entire ministries can be established to expose the dangers of the public system, what is wrong with someone doing the same regarding the underside of private and home education?

True freedom must remain vigilant to protect against both the overly and areligious. Isn't griping about people's griping itself a form of griping?

Interesting when a pewfiller makes a negative observation the verbalization is condemned as “complaining”, “bickering”, or “murmuring.”

However, when such pronouncements are enunciated from behind a pulpit, they are categorized as the “sharing of a concern” or “admonition”.

Average Christians are told to keep their innermost thoughts and concerns to themselves unless they are confirmation about how peachy-keen everything is.

They are then reamed a new one if they fail to articulate sufficiently incriminating confessions during the intelligence gathering exercise known as the taking of prayer requests.

By Frederick Meekins

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Would Graham Have Preferred To Meander Down The Canterbury Trail?

A Harvard University Press biography of Billy Graham claims that, if the world's most famous Baptist had his life to live over again, he would consider becoming an evangelical Anglican.

Such a spiritual and ecclesiastical path would have a number of things to commend it.

Foremost, to be baptized into such a church, one would not necessarily have to be dunked underwater.

Anglicans also accept sprinkling and pouring as appropriate modalities of this primary Christian rite.

To Baptists, it is immersion or nothing at all.

Though identifying as Protestant and distinct from Roman Catholicism, Anglicanism is not so hostile to the other form of Western Christianity so as to forsake that which it is still capable of teaching the believer despite the shortcomings that have taken root in that particular theological expression over the centuries.

Some Baptists, on the other hand, are energized by little more than just how much they can stick it in the eye of the Church of Rome.

Pastor Denies The Apologetic Value Of Superhero Narratives

Baptist Pastor James Cooley has posted a homily at SermonAudio.com condemning the use of the latest Superman film as an apologetic outreach.

This pastor contends that the true Christian ought to avoid the film altogether since the symbols and motifs utilized in the story could be coopted by the Son of Perdition to delude the unsuspecting into accepting the End Times' deceiver as the Son of God.

But the question must be asked, how does this pastor know so much about the movie if he is not simply suggesting discernment should one decide to view the film but that the film be avoided altogether?

Pastor James Cooley condemned Batman as a humanist for relying primarily upon his mind to solve crimes.

So I guess we should wait idly by for all of life's problems to miraculously resolve themselves with no effort on our part?

A pastor opposed to superhero stories and comic books insisted that such narratives were wicked because intrinsic to the structure was an attempt to save the world.

So by that standard, it would be immoral to write a novel about the military especially during a conflict like World War II?

In a sermon condemning superhero entertainment, a legalist complained that you can't have a decent understandable conversation with someone that watches movies and plays video games.

Now the legalist knows how the rest of us feel in dealing with someone whose faith doesn't simply inform or influences what they say and do but is the only thing they can obsessively talk about.

A pastor condemning the conceptual construct of the superhero narrative said that God has called us to "kingdom work" and not fighting aliens.

But we may be on the cusp of a time when those missions are about to overlap.

Should Order Be Complied With Because We Are Told To?

Radio news intoned we are not supposed to drive automobiles on Car Free Day. So because some authority body tells us to do something, we are obligated to comply just because they say so?

Does this include throwing bricks and stones through the windows of Jewish owned businesses?

Don't think it can't happen?

What about Kristallnacht?

Given the nature of the United Nations, such an atrocity occurring again in the future is not beyond the realm of possibility.

Intruders Making It Into White House Should Be Allowed To Remain

Given the standard Obama applies to the border, shouldn't OMAR GONZALEZ (an Irish or Nordic name if there ever was one) now be allowed to remain in the White House once he got in?

He merely wanted to enjoy the nice things there.

Isn't it RACIST to deny him that opportunity.

Regarding the intruder that made it into the White House, President Obama was said to be concerned about the incident because that is where his family lives.

Our families live in the United States.

But this administration expects us to remain silent when our nation's perimeter known as the border is continually violated.

Should Women Be Denied All Forms Of Authority?

Since there are certain Biblical passages that do not allow for female clergy, a number of hardcore legalists also insist that the doctrine forbids women from holding elected political office.

The logic behind such a position contends that there is no distinction between what contemporary society views as secular and sacred authority.

Thus, it is immoral for a man to submit to a woman in either cultural sphere.

If we are obligated to be this rigorous in our religious thinking, there are other applications of this principle that you are required to implement if you are insisting that you are only striving for consistency in these matters.

Foremost, to say that one is under such and such pastor or minister is to say that one regularly subjects oneself to their teaching.

A book is nothing more than an extended lecture or sermon committed to print.

Thus, shouldn't those wanting to present for public display as evidence of their piety how enthusiastically they adhere to the admonitions of Scripture refuse to set their eyes upon any text composed by a woman?

The aspiring canonists advocating for the extremeism of their initial hypothesis will no doubt try to wiggle out of this corner by saying at most such an interpretation would only apply to doctrinal expositions or monographs.

But if we are operating from the principle that all authority is sacred authority, then why does one suddenly attempt to hide behind the distinction between secular knowledge and sacred knowledge in the area of epistemology?

Next, if one holds to the position that women should be forbidden from holding elected office because such would violate Biblical prohibitions against women exercising spiritual authority over men, on what grounds does the person advocating such a perspective then work for a corporation that allows for female managers, supervisors, and executives?

For if the political realm is to be viewed as another sphere of ministry, on what grounds does one then say that economics and business is separate and distinct from the spiritual?

And most importantly, isn't the person that is employed in such an organization adamant about female exclusion from public life guilty of possessing the same kind of dead faith they are extremely eager of insinuating and accusing so many other Christians around them of suffering from?

Headline Link

[Standing Down Goliath: Nephillim DNA, Cyborgs & Interdimensional Armageddon](#)

[Transhumanists Seek Alliance With Atheists To Destroy Traditional Religion](#)

[Pervert Jihadists Apparently Aroused By Goat Vagina](#)

[Demoniac Harlot Insists Daughter Would Thank Her For Having Been Aborted](#)

[Is Woman's Fake Third Udder Utterly Fake?](#)

[All The Pork Barbecue They Can Eat Or They Can Starve](#)

[Is Bird Watching As Racist As Coon Hunting?](#)

[At The UN Obama Blames World Problems On Whitey](#)

[From Baptist To Lutheran Pastor](#)

[Will Ebola Be Exploited To Impose Dictatorship?](#)

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[Does Harry Potter's Influence Surpass Christ's?](#)

[Juvenile Pissants Demand Communist Indoctrination](#)

[Pervert Jurist Concludes Rape Licenses Not Beyond The Realm Of Legal Possibility](#)

[Drug Addict Tramp Waitress Funnels Rush Limbaugh's \\$2000 Tip To Finance Baby Killers](#)

[Are Militant Secularists Attempting To Remove All Mentions Of Christianity From The Literary Record?](#)

[Do Obama Minions Consider Fox News A Terrorist Organization?](#)

[The Frog, The Pot & The Singularity](#)

[Has Our Postmodern Culture Created Cults?](#)

Is The Slow Church Movement The Next Religious Threat

According to the 7/23/14 *Christian Century* review of the book *Slow Church: Cultivating Community In The Patient Way Of Jesus*, these authors contend that the individual should stay in only one church.

This is because, "Every time we move from one church to another, we lose a little bit of our patience for all things religious."

But what if the church is so small that the less desirable regions of the Afterlife will cover over with glaciers before the average person will be able to participate through means of other emptying pockets into the collection plate?

So will ministry positions and opportunities go to the people that have remained at a church for ages?

Or will this be more like the typical workplace where the gloryhounds swoop in when something opens up with the old timers overlooked because they aren't the right demographic (meaning they are the wrong color or the plumbing hooked up incorrectly) with the excuse being that those at the bottom need to remain where they are (meaning there needs to be somebody to be stepped on).

But more importantly, this perspective could easily lead to the fostering of an atmosphere where the victims (oh, I mean members and attenders of the congregation) will put up with increasingly shocking forms of abuse and levels of generalized mistreatment for fear of endangering their immortal souls.

Even if that is not what the authors originally intended, that is most likely what will result in a world

characterized by Jonestown, Waco, and the epidemic of sex scandals blackening the eyes of both the Roman Catholic and Protestant branches of Christendom.

According to the authors of this manifesto on the Slow Church Movement, one is to remain in the same church more or less no matter what.

The authors clearly look like Emergent Church beatniks.

One of them is even a Quaker.

That means he does not view doctrine formulated upon the foundation of His unchanging word as the primary way that God conveys His intentions to mankind.

Rather, we are to fumble about being leading by what is assumed to be the Holy Spirit.

But with that given a higher status than the Bible, we don't really have any proof that the message we are receiving is from the indwelling presence of the Triune Godhead or rather from demonic entities kicked out of the gates of Heaven.

In the end, this Slow Church mindset will no doubt be used to denigrate the character of those that get up and walk out once the gay weddings or the wife swappings commence and be used to applaud as spiritually awakened those willing to go along with such abhorrent practices.

By Frederick Meekins

Observations Regarding The Suicide Of Robin Williams

A report on WMAL warned it was going to announce disturbing details regarding the hanging of Robin Williams. Do they as softly tip toe around the details of every other homicide (most at least at the hands of someone else) in this area?

Supposedly we are expected to excuse Robin Williams taking his own life because he "couldn't help himself". But neither can most serial killers, child molesters and wife beaters.

Fox News's Shephard Smith is being criticized for referring to Robin Williams as a coward for taking his own life.

While it is commendable that light is being shed exposing the despair of depression, it should be remembered exactly who Williams is and what exactly it is that he has done.

It's not like this is the 1800's and Williams has broken down into fits of uncontrollable crying that he can't explain nor has he just birthed a baby. It's not like he was unaccustomed to seeking professional help.

How many other acts ought to be excused and praise lavished upon the individual because they feel irresistible impulses within their minds prompting them to behaviors outside the social norm?

Applying the example of Robin Williams, instead of financially destroying Paula Deen for confessing to the utterance of a questionable word in the privacy of her own home where not a single human life was lost, shouldn't she be honored and celebrated like never before? And what about child and wife beaters?

Not comparable liberal elites will snap. But hasn't Williams abused his family in about the worst way imaginable?

So why is it proper to condemn Rush Limbaugh for blaming the leftist nihilistic perspective in part for the suicide of Robin Williams but laudatory to blame the racetrack vehicular homicide involving Tony Stewart on NASCAR's southern masculine ethos?

Rush Limbaugh is correct in part about the suicide of Robin Williams being contributed to in part by the leftist mindset. However, it might have been more accurate to formulate the tragedy as the outcome of the materialistic mindset of which leftism is that worldview's primary socio-political manifestation.

For if this world is all that there is and there is no assurance of an Afterlife to take comfort in or aspire to which could result in an eternity worse than the misery we experience here if we do not throw ourselves on the mercy of Jesus Christ, why should we resist the temptation to end it all when the burdens of this life seem unbearable without any chance of improvement?

Mental health functionaries are questioning the propriety of releasing the details of the suicide of Robin Williams. It is claimed such specifics could push those tottering on the abyss into taking the leap into oblivion.

But if there is no God or morality binding upon all irrespective of circumstances, what does it matter if someone decides to take their own life or not? Almost just as important, if we are to conceal these specifics because of the few that might attempt this, why is little done to curtail the romping of sack to sack on prime time TV?

Still others insist that the intricacies of human reproduction and the physiology of pleasure should be introduced to students from the first day of kindergarten. Yet only a small handful actively seek to end their own lives. Nearly anybody under the right stimuli can be lead towards carnal temptations.

Hitler committed suicide. Does that mean he is beyond criticism because his significant intellectual shortcomings were the result of whatever biochemistry it was flowing through his warped mind?

By Frederick Meekins

The Way Information Is Processed Is Morally Neutral

On an episode of Generations Radio, it was discussed how the brain processes information has changed since the advent of the Internet.

But is that really a matter of right and wrong necessarily or the rise of a culture based on a different technology?

During the time of the Reformation, didn't a number of traditionalistic Papalists enunciate similar condemnations regarding the rise of the printing press?

Apparently Only Certain Deaths Worthy Of Nazarene Reflection

A Maryland Nazarene Church has posted on its Facebook page photos of candles lit for those mourning Michael Brown and in support of the work to end racism.

It might be one thing to light a candle on behalf of his memory as a human being.

However, if he had not met his parting from this world in a manner that could be exploited to further assorted politically correct agendas, would this church have lit a candle for him?

Given that his church is located in the Washington/Baltimore corridor with its own disturbingly high rate of homicide, does this church post photos of candles lit on behalf of other murder victims explicitly by name?

Tagged on to the name of Michael Brown is mention of "our work to end racism".

There is really no proof that the Michael Brown incident had anything to do with racism.

The foremost examples of racism involved surrounding this issue were of those that rampaged in the streets of Ferguson.

Does this Nazarene church intend to post candles lit beseeching divine protection for the shopkeeper brutalized by Michael Brown in the last hour of his life and the owners of the property pillaged by his supporters?

Or has the Church of the Nazarene been so given over to the social gospel embraced by much of the Emergent Church to the extent that the leadership of this particular congregation contends that property owners get whatever they deserve at the hands of the allegedly disadvantaged?

Assist Your Needy Family First

A somewhat prominent homeschool ministry is suggesting that churches should assume a more direct role in the care of the elderly.

So what safeguards will be put in place to ensure that the disbursement of these provisions won't be manipulated in a form of doctrinal coercion?

For example, would a church refuse to provide granny with her heart medication unless she agrees to no longer wear slacks or toss out the Jesus painting hanging in her room if she belongs to a particularly legalistic congregation?

Likewise, in such a world, what is to prevent the elderly from joining a church not because it is a reflection of their theology but rather because it is more generous and lenient in terms of its charitable goodies?

A somewhat prominent homeschool ministry is suggesting that the children of the elderly ought to be the ones responsible financially for their aging parents and required to plan accordingly.

They can do so by setting aside a significant portion of their tithe dollar that would have otherwise gone to institutionalized churches or the foreign mission field.

Why not?

Throughout this podcast discussion, one of the Biblical texts emphasized was James 1:27, admonishing that true and pure religion is that which cares for widows and orphans in their distress.

Nowhere does the passage say anything about these funds having to be funneled through denominational middlemen that claim their cut for services rendered.

Why can't assisting your own elderly be some of that overlooked serving God in America asked about by Ann Coulter?

Why does it only count for God when the helping hand is extended beyond your own family and especially into the slums of the Third World?

National Cathedral Dean Calls On Assistance Of Deity He Insists Is Nonexistent

The Dean of the National Cathedral is calling for prayer regarding the situation in Ferguson, Missouri.

Since he categorizes himself as a "Christian atheist", he should be asked what is the point of asking for assistance from a God that does not exist.

According to his theology, it might be more beneficial to flip on the Batsignal.

Using Tax Code To Your Advantage Is Not Cheating

Contrary to a Facebook post by Howard Kurtz, how is Burger King legally moving its operations to another jurisdiction "avoiding taxes"?

Does he also hold that the Supreme Court was correct in remanding Dredd Scott to the custody of his master?

Should the geezers that move to Florida be accused of finagling their way out of snow removal duty?

Religious Knowledge Shouldn't Be Confined To Traditional Seminary

In an oration titled "Do You Understand What You Are Reading: The Christian Faith & The Call To Teach", Southern Theological Seminary President Albert Mohler remarked that the Internet is a horrible place to attend seminary.

And what if distance education is the only way that someone can acquire knowledge of this variety either because it is the only way that they can afford, don't have the time for a traditional approach to education, or simply because they have not jumped through assorted hurdles such as traditional church membership or ministry involvement?

There is nothing in the Bible about restricting knowledge solely to a select elite. That is more of a Gnostic perspective.

Why Aren't You Entitled To Know Of Potential Partner's Questionable Past?

A pastor remarked that, in a dating relationship, it is not your business if the person is a virgin.

However, if a relationship begins to progress beyond the stages of merely going out casually, especially if the person claims to never have been married before, aren't you entitled to know more about this aspect of an individual's character?

Why shouldn't someone that has lived a morally chaste life be able to decide for themselves based on all of the available information if they are willing to settle for soiled goods?

Jesus does indeed forgive.

However, His record really isn't all that impressive in preventing the spread of the AIDS virus or other related diseases.

Are we to also avoid questions about other important issues such as previous marital status or doctrinal preferences in ascertaining the suitability of a potential mate?

According to this logic, one is suppose to accept being saddled in a relationship with a Baptist that has been a total whore rather than a Catholic or a Holy Roller that has kept their pants on and their legs together.

Interesting how a sense of forgiveness or whatever one wants to call it should be so blind and stupid regarding one particular sin.

But if one decides to marry someone that is honest about a divorce about the only thing you will be allowed to do in some of these hardline churches is to empty your wallet into the collection plate.

More To Christian Service Than Preaching The Gospel

A pastor remarked that there is no greater service than Christian service.

The pastor than limited Christian service to those instances where one directly shared the Gospel.

But given that we are not solely spiritual beings, shouldn't service intending to meet these other needs if those are the specific fields one has been called to address as one's vocation also be considered Christian service?

Do you really want a Christian fireman to be exegeting the Scriptures to you when he should be putting out your house fire?

Wasn't one of Protestantism's initial goals to correct this kind of errant perspective that had crept into medieval Christianity?

Should Broadcasters With Multiple Divorces Gripe About American Fickleness?

In a Larry King commentary, it was remarked that Americans don't seem to like anything anymore in terms of corporate, government, or media leaders.

But isn't that more the fault of these institutions having screwed us over so many times?

Shouldn't a man married multiple times be the last to complain about pickiness and fickleness in others?

Some Practices Best Left In The Past

A pastor mentioned that, during Puritan times, if someone in the congregation nodded off during the sermon, the somnolent could be whacked by a roving usher.

The pastor joked that perhaps we should return to our heritage.

If one is to hold to the sola scriptura of rigorous Protestantism, in what passage is such a use of force called for?

How about pastors introducing or suggesting ideas nowhere called for in the pages of the Bible being beaten with a rod?

Headline Links

[Are The Duggar Women Viewed As Little More Than Sex Toys & Breeding Sows?](#)

[Does The FBI Deny The Existence Of The Sandy Hook Massacre?](#)

[Will New Christian Film Teach Beleivers How To Romp In The Sack?](#)

[Episcopal Heresiarch Extends Blessing To Infanticide Mafia](#)

[Obama Plants His Nose Up Known Terrorist's Rectum Religious Fatigue](#)

Does Enslavement Uplift Spirits?

Islamic propagandists are insisting that women that wear hijabs have a higher body image.

If a woman wants to wear such an outfit, that might be her business.

However, isn't the more pressing issue at hand the women being forced to wear these getups in areas where the particular form of extremeism such garments exemplify is on the rise?

Is one to conclude that the jihadists that hacked off the breasts of Christian women were instead simply trying to liberate these women from body dysmorphic disorder?

Regarding adherents of this creed that parade about in full heathen regalia that even their faces are concealed.

What assurances does an instructor in an academic setting have that it's the same student that shows up everyday adorned in such a potentially deceptive manner?

What if a member of the Ku Klux Klan showed up making their daily rounds in public in complete costume?

Tolerancemongers will insist what the Klansman is doing is intended to excite a spirit of fear and express hatred.

But so is the Mohammedan.

For such ensembles are not donned so much out of sincere religious devotion but out of contempt for our liberties that allow such imbeciles to cavort about without opposition or even question.

Those Calling For The Elimination Of Ideological Labels Demand Compliance With Their's

A caller to the Chris Plante show on WMAL said that we ought to set aside the notions of "liberalism" and "conservatism" to do what is right for America.

That sounds wonderful on paper and makes for a stirring oration.

But on what grounds does one then decide what is right for America?

When such admonitions are enunciated, why are those that believe that the the individual, for the most part, guided by traditional or religious conceptions of morality is the one most capable of procuring the best possible livelihood for themselves expected to fall into compliance with those that believe large overwhelming bureaucracies ought to determine how it is that you will live your life and when you are capable of making these kinds of decisions on your own?

Still don't think notions of conservatism and liberalism have relevance in American political and ideological discourse?

Headline Links

[Secularists Insist Creationism & Abstinence Are What's Destroying American Education](#)

[Would Bill Cosby Be On An Offender Registry If He Was A Regular Black Dude?](#)

[Governor Making Fuss Over 20 Year Old Strip Club Raid Endorses State-Backed Smut Peddling](#)

[Obama Insists His Acolytes Should Be Allowed To Terrorize & Pillage As They Please](#)

[Sodomites Condemn Bachmann For Suggesting She's Tired Of Being Constantly Reamed By Gay Marriage](#)

[Greedy Statists Confess Traffic Cameras Not About Public Safety](#)

[Secularist Jews Condemn Duggar Lass For Exposing Holocaust's Disturbing Implications](#)

[When The Filthy Heathens In The Neighborhood Want Quiet, Everyone Must Be Quiet](#)

[Queen Sasquatch Defends Rights Of WOMENNNNNNN To Dress Like Harlots & Tramps Without Comment](#)

[Christian Swingers Apparently Still View Chubby Chasing As A Sin](#)

[Sandheathen Pitches Bitch Fit Over Classic Ditty](#)

[German Perverts Insist Incest Prohibitions Undermine Sexual Self Determination](#)

Why Shouldn't Murder Be Frowned Upon?

An article in the 2014: #4 issue of *Conscience: The Newsjournal Of Catholic Opinion* (of a variety advocating infanticide) is titled “Manufacturing Stigmatism: How Faith-based Organizations Stigmatize Abortion”.

And why shouldn't they?

Should an animal rights organization be required to applaud the cultural diversity surrounding cock fighting?

Should a feminist newsletter be expected to admit that, in some relationships, corporal punishment might be the agreed upon corrective to errant behavior between semi-consenting adults?

Observations Regarding The Ebola Outbreak

Maybe the 3000 that have already perished from the illness can be assured that the Ebola virus is difficult to contract.

Apparently the privacy of a single Third World savage is a higher priority than the survival of Western civilization.

Why isn't travel from Africa to the United States being banned? Africans don't have some kind of inherent right to come here.

Will Muslims Be Expected To Abide By Do Unto Others?

Sojourners Magazine is patting itself on the back for erecting a number of billboards opposing alleged assaults against Muslims.

These edifices read, “Love Your Muslim Neighbors”.

All well and good to a certain extent.

Will the magazine sponsor similar public advertising in the vicinity of the facilities where Christians are being ritualistically sacrificed in Syria urging “Love Your Christian Neighbors”?

Headline Links

[Apostate Insists The Bible No More Binding That Star Wars Or Lord Of The Rings](#)

[The Coming Police State](#)

[Obama Refuses To Admit Overwhelming Majority Of Terrorists Are Muslim](#)

[Schoolyard Bullies Snitch For Food Fascists](#)

[Is Rep. Jim Moran A Terrorist Sympathizer?](#)

[Episcopal Panties In A Wad Over What To Call Female Clergy](#)

[Episcopal Loon Worships The Creation Rather Than The Creator](#)

[Is Cardinal Dolan Edging Closer To Embracing Moral Degeneracy?](#)

[Is Ron Paul Attempting To Destroy The United States On Behalf Of His Russian Benefactors?](#)

[Queen Sasquatch Doesn't Give An Excrement About What You Want To Eat](#)

[Will Reprobates Subvert The Synod On The Family?](#)

[Batman's Wife Shirt Outrages Homely Crones](#)

[Does Global Warming Erode The Penis?](#)

[North Carolina Legislator Denounces The White Race](#)

[Will The American People Be A Blood Sacrifice To The Gods Of Open Borders?](#)

[Barney Fife Mistakes Spaghetti Sauce For Meth Residue](#)

[CDC Advises Funeral Homes To Prepare For Mass Casualties](#)

[Are Heathen Plagues Part Of A Biowarfare Assault?](#)

[Will White Liberal Guilt Destroy America?](#)

[Legendary Broadcaster Stan Monteith Passes](#)

[Maoists Obsessed With Pigeon Rectums](#)

Pastor Apparently Selective In What Pagan Practices He Condemns

In a sermon titled “The Satanic Deception Of Halloween” posted at SerrmonAudio.com, Pastor James Cooley details the history of how black cats came to be connected with this autumnal celebration as the spirit familiars of witches and as a result of an alleged Druidic belief that cats were the reincarnated souls of evil people.

To this, the podcaster interviewing Pastor Cooley remarked that he knew there was a reason why he did not like cats.

Pastor Cooley concurred with an “Amen.”

But who is it that created cats?

Surely it was not Satan.

Was it not the God that we are supposed to be so dedicated to that we can't even participate in a festival that does not possess any meaning for most other than dressing up in a silly costume to collect candy from door to door?

Cats are not inherently evil.

That is merely the connotation they have been imbued with from a cultural and literary standpoint derived from subjective existential or psychological sources.

In other words, from nothing more than what someone happened to think or feel regarding them.

Should something be abandoned because a number construe a conceptual or ontological category to be evil rather than it actually being so?

So does this include Fundamentalist Baptist Churches?

For years, that form of ecclesiology's most ardent adherents rightly condemned the pedophile scandals that wracked the Roman Catholic Church.

However, it turns out that nearly the same perversion had gripped a number of hardline Independent Fundamentalist ministries.

Therefore, isn't it logical to contend that there have been more innocent people hurt in a spirit of appalling wanton sin perpetrated by those that should have known better than were ever hurt by cats exhibiting a similar degree of deliberate malice?

So does that mean we should refrain from attendance at these particular houses of worship to avoid offending the weaker brother?

Often, the conspicuously pious will homiletically insist that Halloween ought to be avoided altogether

not so much to refrain from actual wrongdoing but to avoid the appearance of such and out of the necessity to separate from unclean things as counseled by Scripture.

As such, shouldn't we also consider the source of this sentiment against cats if the propriety or impropriety of a thing is to be determined not so much by how it is practiced today but rather by ideas affiliated with it at the time a custom came into existence?

By the pastor's own admission, this particular prejudice is supposedly Druid in origin.

Thus, if we are to sever all connections with Halloween for being pagan in origin, why not this unfounded contempt for felines as well?

By Frederick Meekins



Is The Southern Baptist Missions President More Interested In Your Stuff Than Your Soul?

There is no pleasing some theologians unless you word to the most exacting detail everything the way that they would.

A Facebook meme attributed to Southern Baptist International Missions Board president David Platt is quoted as saying the following: “Accept him? Do we really think Jesus needs our acceptance? Don't we need Him? Jesus is no longer one to be accepted or invited in but one who is infinitely worthy of our immediate and total surrender.”

Is there really a reason to get one's backside up on one's shoulders over a pastor or evangelist that phrases the soteriological appeal in terms of accepting Christ as Lord and Savior?

Granted, as part of the infinite triune Godhead, Jesus can hobble along quite fine without us no matter how much Pastor Platt believes world missions might collapse without his particular brand of religious over-enthusiasm.

What it simply means when someone accepts Jesus as Lord and Savior is that the person assents to the truth and validity of the claims and conditions made in the Gospels.

What is interesting is Rev. Platt's phraseology of immediate and total surrender.

Traditionally, that is what occurs when the sincere individual comes to a saving knowledge of Christ, meaning one makes a concerted effort with the help of the Holy Spirit to resist those more sinful desires.

However, what Platt may mean by that, given the perspective taken in a number of his books such as *Radical* and his sermons available on sites such as Youtube, is a bit different.

To Platt, it is not so much that your life and possessions are Christ's to determine directly how these are to be used to His glory but rather that is to be determined by your betters up the ecclesiastical food chain.

According to sermons from the likes of Rev. Platt, in taking up your cross, it is not sufficient to endure a particular struggle or trial that has come into your life but rather that you are to think of yourself as on the way to execution in terms that you are supposed to be wracked with profound guilt for a standard of living above that of the subsistence level.

However, religious superstars such as David Platt are to enjoy a semi-luxurious lifestyle flying across the country and around the globe having accolades and wads of cash tossed in their direction over how wonderful they are for being outraged that you have what you have.

Christ Himself says in Revelation 3:20, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”

The text does not say that Jesus will beat down the door.

Customarily, when someone knocks at the door, it is your right to either open the door to invite them into your dwelling or to decline their request along with whatever it is they might be happening to bring you.

But then again, we are in the age where apparently the theological celebrities know more than Christ ever did.

By Frederick Meekins

The *Calloused Digit* is the newsletter of Issachar Bible Church & Apologetics Research Institute. The columns and photos were composed by Frederick Meekins. Frederick Meekins holds a Bachelor of Science in Political Science & History from the University of Maryland, a Master of Apologetics & Christian Philosophy from Trinity Theological Seminary, a Doctor of Practical Theology from Master's International School of Divinity, and a Doctor of Divinity from Slidell Baptist Seminary. Dr. Meekins is pursuing a PhD. in Christian Apologetics from Newburgh Theological Seminary. Recipients of this newsletter are granted permission to freely pass along its contents provided proper credit is attributed.